

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Withdrawn) A method for breaking separation of at least one bearing cap from a corresponding thrust block in a bearing assembly of an engine case provided with bearing bores arranged in-line, the method comprising the steps of,

inserting an extension mandrel comprising two half-mandrels into at least one bearing bore clamping said bearing cap between a corresponding half-mandrel and a fixing means to secure said bearing cap against rotation, while allowing said bearing cap to be freely movable to a limited degree in the direction of breaking separation, and

moving said half-mandrels apart to produce a breaking separation force between said thrust block and said bearing cap.
2. (Previously Presented) A device configured to perform breaking separation of at least one bearing cap from a corresponding thrust block in a bearing assembly of an engine case provided with bearing bores arranged in-line, comprising

an extension mandrel insertable into at least one of said bearing bores and said extension mandrel has two half-mandrels,

an expander for moving said half-mandrels apart, said expander taking effect between said half-mandrels,

at least two gripping means, said gripping means being couplable to said half-mandrel corresponding to said at least one bearing cap, and

a fixing means connected to said at least two gripping means,

wherein said at least one bearing cap being clampable between said corresponding half-mandrel and said fixing means and a unit comprising said corresponding half-mandrel, said gripping means, said fixing means and said clamped bearing cap is supported in a freely movable manner to a limited degree, though secured against rotation, in the direction of breaking separation.

3. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said half-mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap, comprises at least one recess or at least one projection engageable with said gripping means.
4. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with ~~claim 2~~ claim 3, wherein said half-mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap comprises, at its periphery on mutually facing sides, tangentially extending insertion slots for said gripping means, said slots being in communication with said at least one recess.
5. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with ~~claim 2~~ claim 4, wherein said at least one recess, when viewed in an axial direction of said extension mandrel, is positioned axially adjacent to said insertion slots in each case and merges into said slots.
6. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with ~~claim 2~~ claim 3, wherein said gripping means are formed by a first and a second pincer, each of the first and the second pincers comprise fixed jaws, said jaws having, at their ends, engagement members facing towards one another.
7. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 6, wherein said engagement members engage with said at least one recess within said half-mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap or engage behind said at least one projection.
8. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said fixing means connected to said gripping means comprises at least one force-actuated detent.

9. (Previously Presented) A device in accordance with claim 8, wherein at least two detents are spaced apart from one another, said detents acting upon said bearing cap at that side which is opposite said corresponding half-mandrel.
10. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 2, wherein the device is configured to perform breaking separation in a bearing assembly of the engine case ~~comprises~~ a crankshaft case for a reciprocating piston engine.
11. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the engine case comprises a crankshaft case for a reciprocating piston engine.
12. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein a peripheral portion of the said half mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap comprises tangentially extending insertion slots at mutually facing sides.
13. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said half mandrel corresponding to said bearing cap further comprises at least one recess.
14. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 13, wherein the step of clamping includes the step of placing the insertion slots in communication with the at least one recess.
15. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 13, further comprising the step of traversing in a sliding manner over the corresponding half mandrel a gripping means.
16. (Withdrawn) An engine formed in part by breaking separation of at least one bearing cap from a corresponding thrust block in a bearing assembly of an engine case provided with bearing bores arranged in-line, the breaking separation comprising steps of,

inserting an extension mandrel comprising two half-mandrels into at least one bearing bore,

clamping said bearing cap between a corresponding half-mandrel and a fixing means to secure said bearing cap against rotation, while allowing said bearing cap to be freely movable to a limited degree in the direction of breaking separation, and

moving said half-mandrels apart to produce a breaking separation force between said thrust block and said bearing cap.